

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL**  
**General Meeting**  
**Friday, August 5, 2005**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, Az 85007

**Members Present:** Governor Janet Napolitano, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Cathleen Barton, Mark Bryce, Ernie Calderon (telephonic), Susan Carlson, Dr. Michael Crow (telephonic), David Curd, Dr. Matthew Diethelm, Gregory Donovan, Bill Estes, Dr. Roy Flores, Dr. Sybil Francis (telephonic), Vivian Gonzales, Mayor Phil Gordon, Bob Hagen, Dr. John Haeger, Superintendent Tom Horne, Dr. Peter Likins, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dean Phillips, Kristen Rex, Cindy Rudrud, Senator Toni Hellon (ex-officio) and Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (ex-officio).

**Members Absent:** Robert Cassa, Dr. Angel Cabrera, Cathy McKee, Dr. Douglas Olesen, Jeff Whiteman, Senator Harry Mitchell (ex-officio) and Representative Laura Knaperak (ex-officio).

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Governor Janet Napolitano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed the members of the P-20 Council. In her opening remarks, Governor Napolitano challenged the Council to revisit the education paradigm, to ask the tough questions, to review a series of thoughtful changes, and to ensure that these changes are integrated across education governance systems and are directly relevant to the needs of employers and include input from those who hire, outsource, research and design the economy we have today and are building for tomorrow. The Governor emphasized that handing out assignments and going our separate ways won't work. The building of an educated, well-prepared workforce will require better planning across education, higher education and industry partners and that the need is immediate and urgent.

Governor Napolitano then introduced Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges, who will serve as Co-Chair of the P-20 Council.

## **2. Introductions**

Dr. Glasper also welcomed the members of the P-20 Council and introduced staff: Becky Hill, the Governor's Policy Advisor for K-12 Education; Darcy Renfro, the Governor's Policy Advisor for Higher Education; and Debra Raeder, the Executive Director for the Governor's P-20 Council.

## **3. Review and Discussion**

Debra Raeder provided the P-20 Council with a review of the charge of the Council, an update of the information provided in their Packets, and an overview of the agenda. Ms. Raeder indicated that education reform is a national effort and that the country as a whole is revisiting its educational goals and what students need to know to maintain America as a leader in today's global economy. Governor Napolitano created this Council by Executive Order to bring education stakeholders together to help shape a common vision and direction for the education reform efforts in Arizona. The Council will play a vital role in overseeing the state's many reform efforts and serve as a catalyst for increased collaboration among entities that influence P-20 education. Ms. Raeder emphasized that the work of the P-20 Council is not to supersede existing efforts in the state but to integrate, accelerate, align and bring to scale these efforts.

Ms. Raeder indicated that four ad hoc committees would be formed immediately to begin work in the following areas: An Alignment Project; Graduation Rate Project; Adolescent Literacy; and Access to Higher Education. She indicated that there was a form in the back of each Agenda Packet for the Council members to indicate which area(s) they would be interested in working.

## **4. Presentation: Alignment Project**

Steve Bella, from PublicWorks, updated the Council on Arizona's High School and Post Secondary Skills Alignment Assessment Project. Mr. Bella indicated that the Alignment Project is intended to provide a guide for the P-20 Council in determining the education and skill requirements needed for Arizona's high growth/high wage occupations; to identify the high school courses a student needs to take to be college and career ready; and to evaluate what needs to be taught in the high school classrooms that meet the expectations of employers and postsecondary institutions. Mr. Bella stated that over the course of the next four to six months, surveys and best practice research would be used to develop a guide for the P-20 Council to evaluate the opportunities and challenges for Arizona so every high school graduate is college and career ready. During discussion, members of the Council expressed support of the Project indicating that there was a need to overcome old images, the need to think outside of the box, to have all students on one track, and to aim for the top.

## **5. Presentation: National Educational Initiatives**

Dane Linn, from the National Governors Association, updated the Council on national education initiatives, and the Graduation Rate Project and Compact. Specifically, Mr. Linn emphasized the 10 steps defined in NGA's publication, *redesigning the American high school*. Mr. Linn emphasized the need to restore value to high school diplomas and that Michigan, Kentucky and Washington had excellent examples of state initiatives to achieve this goal. Mr. Linn talked about the need to expand access to higher education through such programs as Advanced Placement (AP) courses and a rigorous Dual Enrollment program, and that states should encourage students to take the AP exam. Mr. Linn also stressed the importance of recruiting and retaining of excellent teachers and principals, strengthening accountability, a centralized data system and reforming the education governance structures. Mr. Linn briefly reviewed the Graduation Rate Compact signed by Governor Napolitano and 45 other Governors across the nation. The Compact provides for a standard definition for computing graduation rates. Mr. Linn indicated that within two weeks he believes all Governors will have signed the compact.

Mr. Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced Ms. Maxine Daley and Karen Butterfield from his office. Mr. Horne indicated that the Arizona Department of Education currently conforms with the NGA Compact definition for computing graduation rates. Mr. Horne also disputed that Arizona's dropout statistics are as high as being reported nationally. Karen Butterfield then updated the Council on the Department of Education's High School Renewal Project, as well as the Department's efforts in Career and Technical Education. Information was distributed on the Department's four-year graduation rate, and the High School Renewal and Improvement Initiative.

## **6. Presentation: Adolescent Literacy**

Elizabeth Schneider, from the Alliance for Excellent Education, provided the Council with an overview of the Alliance's activities that focus on raising adolescent literacy levels. Elizabeth distributed a copy of the Alliance's publication, *Reading Next*, a report that has been widely acclaimed by the practitioner, research and policy communities for articulating 15 instructional and infrastructure elements that should be considered as effective adolescent literacy programs are developed and implemented. Ms. Schneider indicated that the Alliance is looking forward to working with Arizona to examine the scope of the state's adolescent literacy challenges and the interventions that may be in place in schools and districts across the state, and to working with the Council to develop recommendations for a more effective, comprehensive approach designed to improve the reading and writing skills of Arizona's secondary school students.

## **7. Presentation: Joint Conference Committee**

Regent Ernie Calderon introduced Stephanie Jacobson to present his report of the Joint Conference Committee of the Universities and Community Colleges of Arizona (JCC). Ms. Jacobson indicated that the JCC was reconstituted in 2003 with representatives from the Arizona Board of Regents, university presidents, community college presidents and

community college trustees. The JCC members are in the process of identifying three-to-five initiatives for the specific purpose of improving affordable access to the baccalaureate degree. It is anticipated that the JCC will announce the plan by October 1, 2005. Darcy Renfro commented that we anticipate that there will be additional issues for the P-20 Council to explore regarding access and alignment between community colleges and universities.

## **8. Call to the Public**

Bob Rosenberg, of eSATS (eLearning Systems for Arizona Teachers and Students) addressed the Council on the importance of technology and the eLearning model for Arizona.

Lori Rubin Williamson, with the Scottsdale Supporters of the Gifted, addressed the Council on the need to address gifted education and funding.

## **9. Announcements and Adjournment**

Dr. Glasper asked Council members to be sure to let Debra know of their availability to meet on September 12, 2005; October 12, 2005; and November 18, 2005.

There being no further business, Dr. Glasper adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.